

C H A P.
XVIII.
Trustees ap-
pointed, &c.

IV. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for the time being the five several persons hereafter named, be and are hereby nominated, appointed and named, trustees for the poor within the said county, and are empowered with full and sufficient authority to discharge the several offices, duties and trusts reposed in and required of them by this act; that is to say, colonel George Plater, colonel Abraham Barnes, major Zachariah Bond, Mr. John Reeder and Mr. James Jordan; the which persons, so nominated, appointed, authorised and named, for the county aforesaid, or the major part of them in case of the death or absence of any, are hereby required, with all convenient speed, to meet at such places within their county as to them shall seem meet, to qualify themselves for the office of trustees for the poor of their county, which they are to do by taking the several oaths appointed by law to be taken to the government, signing the oath of abjuration; and repeating and sifting the test, and also taking the following oath, to wit: "I, A. B. do swear, that I will duly and faithfully discharge the duties and trusts committed to me as a trustee for the poor for Saint-Mary's county, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, and an act of assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Saint-Mary's county, to help me Gov;" the which oath is to be administered by any of the four persons last named for the county to the person first named, or, in his absence, to any one of the three persons first named that shall be there present, the which person, being sworn as aforesaid, shall administer the oaths aforesaid to all the rest, and so successively, the person first named that shall be present shall always administer the said oaths to any that have been absent, or that shall hereafter be elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act to supply the place of any that shall be dead, or removed out of the county, or of any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify and act as a trustee, when elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act; and the aforesaid persons, or the major part of them, being sworn as aforesaid, shall be constituted and qualified as trustees for the poor of their said county, and, as such, are hereby invested with full power and authority, as a body politic, to plead and be impleaded, to sue and be sued, to defend and be defended, to answer and be answered, by the name of The Trustees for the Poor for Saint-Mary's county, in all and every cause, complaint and action, real, personal or mixt, of whatsoever kind or nature it shall be, in any of the courts of judicature within this province, and by that name they, and any of them, and their successors, shall and they are hereby enabled to take, hold, possess and enjoy, any gift, donation or present, which shall or may hereafter be given, devised or bequeathed, by any person or persons whatsoever, to them, or any of them, for or towards the support and maintenance of the poor in the said county; and they, or any of them, may receive, by way of subscription, any sum or sums of money which shall or may be given for the better and more speedy promoting the benefit and good by this act intended; and that they have full power, authority, lawful capacity and ability, to purchase, take, hold, receive, enjoy and have, to them and their successors for ever, any lands, tenements and hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of one thousand pounds sterling, of any person or persons whatsoever, and are hereby empowered and authorised to use one common seal in their business relating to the said corporation, and the same, if necessary, to change and alter; and that the said persons so incorporated, the longest livers and successors of them, shall be the true, sole and undoubted trustees, in perpetual succession for ever, to be continued in way and manner hereafter specified, with full and absolute power, liberty and authority, in the making and ordaining such laws, orders and rules, for the better relieving, regulating and letting the poor to work, and punishing vagrants, beggars, vagabonds and other offenders, and for the good government of the said alms and work-house in their said county, as to them and their successors shall, from time to time, seem most fit and requisite, all which shall be observed by the overseer of such alms and work-house, and by all poor, beggars, vagrants, vagabonds and other offenders, in such alms and work-house, under the penalties therein contained; provided always, that the said rules, laws and orders, be no wise contrary to the laws of this province.

Now vacancies
arc to be filled.

V. AND, to perpetuate the succession of the aforesaid number of five trustees for the poor in the said county, BE IT ENACTED, That as often as any one of the said trustees for the poor shall die, remove himself out of the county, refuse to qualify himself by taking the oaths aforesaid, or become incapable of acting, the trustees for the time being, then surviving and remaining within the said county, or the major part of them, are hereby authorised and required to elect, nominate and choose, one of the principal and better sort of the inhabitants of the county, into the place and room of such trustee, and so to fill up the full number of trustees for each alms and work-house, the which persons, so elected and chosen, from time to time, are always to be qualified in the same manner as before by this act is directed.

Penalty for re-
fusing to act.

VI. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That every person by this act appointed as a trustee for the poor, or that shall hereafter be nominated and appointed as such pursuant to the directions hereof, and